

# Morning Highlights

Wednesday, June 22, 2011  
Morning Highlights  
Time: 11:00 a.m.

Contacts  
Alaska Interagency Fire Information Center: (907) 356-5511  
Report Fires: 911

## The Life Stages of a Wildfire – Part 1

From its beginning to its end, a wildfire goes through several distinct stages. Over the years, these stages have come to be described by standard firefighting terminology. This terminology is defined in the Glossary of Wildland Fire Terminology found here:

<http://www.nwcg.gov/pms/pubs/glossary/i.htm>. The links below connect directly to the Glossary.

The first stage of a fire is [detection](#). Fires may be detected in a variety of ways, including visual observation from the ground, observation from aircraft, or in many Lower-48 states, from [lookout towers](#).

The next stage is [attacking the fire](#). Firefighters are [dispatched](#) to the fire to begin firefighting [operations](#). The land management [objectives](#) for the land where the fire is located govern their [strategy](#). This stage of the fire is called [initial attack](#). If firefighters are unsuccessful in achieving management objectives during initial attack, the fire moves into the [extended attack](#) stage. Extended attack can be relatively brief or can continue for months, depending on the [size](#) and complexity of the fire. Size and complexity also determine the [type](#) and number of [resources](#) assigned to the fire.

On large or complex fires, an [Incident Management Team](#) may be assigned management responsibility during the extended attack stage. This is done through a [Delegation of Authority](#) from the agencies responsible for land management and fire protection.

We will look at the next stages of a wildfire in tomorrow's Morning Highlights.



Smokejumpers are an important initial attack resource in Alaska. Photo: Mike McMillan

## Wildfire Update

No new fires were reported yesterday. Statewide, 31 fires are currently active, with three of these staffed and the remainder in monitor status. According to the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center, there have been 334 fires this year to date in Alaska, and 262,212 acres have burned. Current fires of note include:

The **Hastings Fire**, 15 miles northwest of Fairbanks, remains at 22,819 acres and is 61 percent contained. Fire behavior consists of smoldering and creeping. Minimal fire spread is expected. Mop-up and fireline rehabilitation are ongoing. The fire has transitioned to a Type 3 Incident Management Team.

The **East Volkmar Fire**, 25 miles northeast of Delta Junction, is 54,330 acres and is 32 percent contained. Reduction in acres and containment is due to improved mapping. Minimal fire activity is occurring, and management objectives have been met. Demobing of fire resources is in progress.

The **Little Creek Fire**, 36 miles south of Tanana, is 26,200 acres and zero percent contained. Fire behavior consists of smoldering, creeping. Burnout operations and mop-up continue near Akers airstrip.

### For further information:

Alaska Fire Situation Report: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/aicc/sitreport/current.pdf>

Fire news releases: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/newsroom.php>

## Fire Weather

A series of low pressure waves moving in from the east continues to bring rain to much of Alaska. The Brooks Range and eastern Interior will see isolated wet thunderstorms today. High pressure will begin to push to the south on Thursday, improving conditions in northern and eastern Alaska by the weekend. Western Alaska and the South Central area will remain cool and damp, however, due to low pressure moving in from the west.

## Alaska Fire Information

The Alaska Interagency Fire Information Center (also called Joint Information Center or JIC) will be operational through Thursday, June 23. The information center is an interagency communications office responsible for researching, coordinating and disseminating wildfire information to the public and the media. The JIC is activated when fire officials determine that the number and complexity of wildfires burning across the state call for additional public information presence and coordination. Office hours are currently 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Phone 907-356-5511 for the latest information.

### Fire Information Contacts

- **Alaska Interagency Fire Information Center**
  - 907-356-5511
  - [AlaskaJIC@gmail.com](mailto:AlaskaJIC@gmail.com)
- **Hastings Fire Information:**
  - 907-451-2626 x2
  - <http://inciweb.org/incident/2261/>
  - [HastingsFire@gmail.com](mailto:HastingsFire@gmail.com)
- **Fairbanks Area Division of Forestry Fire Information:**
  - Terry Anderson: 451-2626 x2
  - [FireInfoFAF@gmail.com](mailto:FireInfoFAF@gmail.com)

## Aviation Awareness

A TFR remains in place over the Hastings Fire (FDC is 1/8460). Helicopter and fixed-wing aircraft support fire suppression and crew/cargo movement throughout the state, frequently in areas with visibility restricted due to smoke. Please check NOTAMS for Temporary Flight Restrictions: <http://tfr.faa.gov/tfr2/list.html>. Report new fires you may observe to the nearest FAA facility.

## Wildfire Smoke

Individuals with health concerns should consult personal medical providers.

- AK Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) – Smoke: <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/air/am/smoke.htm>
- DEC Air Quality Advisories/Alerts: <https://myalaska.state.ak.us/dec/air/airtoolsweb/AirOnlineServices.aspx>
- Fairbanks North Star Borough Smoke Visibility/ Air Quality: <http://co.fairbanks.ak.us/airquality> and <http://co.fairbanks.ak.us/airquality/Docs/ParticulateLevels.pdf>

## Additional References

- Alaska Interagency Coordination Center: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/>
  - Map of Current Fires: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/predsvcs/maps.php>
  - Alaska Situation Report: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/aicc/sitreport/current.pdf>
  - National Fire Situation Report: <http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/sitreprt.pdf>
  - Guide to Wildland Fire Suppression in AK: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/news/psa/Media%20Guide%20to%20AK%20Wildland%20Fire%20Suppression.pdf>
- Alaska Division of Forestry (Burn Permit Info): <http://forestry.alaska.gov/burn/>
- Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group - Education and Reference Materials: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/administration/awfcg.php>
- Protect your home and property!: <http://firewise.org/> and <http://forestry.alaska.gov/pdfs/firewise09.pdf>
- Department of Environmental Conservation (Smoke Concerns): <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/air/am/smoke.htm>
- Department of Transportation (Road Closure Info): (907) 451-2240, <http://511.alaska.gov/>
- National Parks Service: <http://www.nps.gov/akso/Fire/firehome.htm>
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife: <http://www.fws.gov/fire/>
- USDA Forest Service: <http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/>
- Anchorage Fire Department: [www.muni.org/fire](http://www.muni.org/fire)
- National Weather Service: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/>
- Temporary Flight Restriction Information: <http://tfr.faa.gov/tfr2/list.html>
- Federal Aviation Administration: <http://www.faa.gov/>

**AICC Morning Highlights is compiled by Alaska Division of Forestry and BLM Alaska Fire Service.**